

September 9, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with great enthusiasm that I write this letter of recommendation for Samantha (Sam) Mitchell. As the sponsor of the Community Medical and Awareness Club (CMAC) at John Jay Science and Engineering Academy, I've had the privilege of working closely with Sam for several years, and I can confidently say she is one of the most visionary and capable student leaders I've encountered.

Sam is a founding member and the current Vice President of CMAC, a student-led organization dedicated to promoting public health awareness and creating sustainable service initiatives within our school and broader community. From the outset, Sam demonstrated not only initiative but genuine leadership - helping to shape the club's mission, build its structure, and establish a culture of purpose-driven service. She doesn't just lead projects; she builds systems and visions that outlast her.

Among her most impactful contributions was her leadership of the CMAC's annual Pumpkin Carving event, which transformed a fun student activity into a health-themed educational outreach for younger students. Even more impressively, she led the successful revamp of the school library's neglected garden space - assisting with managing a \$5,000 grant to convert the area into a therapeutic environment for students and staff. Her ability to manage funding, logistics, volunteers, and the long-term maintenance plan speaks to her rare combination of creativity and operational skill.

What sets Sam apart is not just what she accomplishes, but how she does it. She leads with vision, compassion, and precision - consistently inspiring her peers to commit deeply to projects that matter. She is incredibly organized, dependable, and mission-driven, and her peers naturally gravitate toward her calm, confident leadership. Her ability to balance empathy with execution is rare at any age, but especially impressive in a high school student.

Sam has shared with me her long-term goal of pursuing mechanical and biomedical engineering with a focus on prosthetic design. What strikes me is how seamlessly that vision aligns with how she already operates: solving real-world problems with empathy, creativity, and technical thinking. I believe she will bring that same mindset to her future studies - and to the world beyond the classroom. I am so confident in her potential that I've already begun reaching out to colleagues in the biomedical field to help support her next steps.

In my experience working with student leaders over the years, Sam ranks in the very top tier - not only for what she achieves, but for the authenticity, heart, and excellence she brings to

everything she does. She will thrive in any academically rigorous and service-minded environment, and she will leave every community she joins better than she found it.

Please feel free to contact me at [roberta.mader@nisd.net](mailto:roberta.mader@nisd.net) if you have any questions. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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